(ii) assist in the development of a technical plan for the Company's research and educational programes.

Tele-density in India

1950. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest percentage of tele-density in India; and

(b) how does it compare with Pakistan and China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The latest percentage of tele-density in India as on 30.6.2003 is 5.49.

(b) As per International Telecommunication Union Report-2002, the telephone per 100 population in the year 2001 of Pakistan and China were 2.35 and 13.81 respectively whereas the tele-density of India in the year 2001 was 3.58.

VPTs Tata Teleservices in A.P.

1951. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd. has not provided Village Public Telephones in Andhra Pradesh as per the commitment made in the Licence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what corrective measures Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The company has provided 1314 Village Public Telephones so far.